

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

7th June 2018

Jean Constant

RE: SANCTIONS AND ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING BILL.

Thank you for contacting me recently about the New Clause 6 of the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Bill; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

The Bill required the Overseas Territories to establish public registers for company beneficial ownership and for the UK Government to effectively legislate if this does not happen by the end of 2020.

I am encouraged by the UK's history of strong support for coordinated international action to promote beneficial ownership transparency. The UK was the first G20 country to establish its own public register of company beneficial ownership and has committed to creating a new beneficial ownership register for overseas companies. At EU level, the UK went beyond the requirements of the fourth anti-money laundering directive in establishing a public register and supported the inclusion in the fifth anti-money laundering directive of a provision that will require all EU member states to have legislation in place to support publicly accessible registers by the end of 2019.

It was, however, recognised that there were legitimate concerns raised over this new clause. While it is true that the UK has power to legislate for the Overseas Territories, the Government only exercises these powers to legislate without their consent as a matter of last resort. It is only in the most exceptional circumstances that legislation is made for or on behalf of these jurisdictions without their consent. I can therefore appreciate the Government's reticence to legislate directly for them or to risk damaging our long-standing constitutional arrangements which respect their autonomy.

However, the Government did note the strength of feeling on this issue and did not oppose the amendment. The Bill has now received Royal Assent. The Government has given assurances to the overseas territories that it will work very closely with them in shaping and implementing the legislation and any legal and logistical support they may need.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes

Tom
TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE